

REMARKS

Claims 7 through 27 are currently pending in the present application and are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Claim 22 is objected to because of a typographical error. In response, Applicant has corrected the error. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 21 through 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In response, Applicant has amended claim 9 to recite that "both the toothed slide and the toothed piece have teeth, and one of the toothed slide and the toothed piece has more teeth than the other of the toothed slide and the toothed piece, to allow for a plurality of engaged positions between the toothed slide and the toothed piece, including the engaged position and the new engaged position." As shown in the specification, the embodiment has four possible engaged positions.

Claim 21 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 22 has been amended to recite that "the locking block abuts against a pin fixed within the sliding block". As shown in Fig. 1, locking block 1 abuts pin 10 which in turn abuts a top surface of sliding block 6. In operation, movement of the locking block down into block groove 15 (into the second working position) causes pin 10 to bias sliding block 6 down.

Applicant has made additional amendments to the claims for clarification purposes, such as amending claim 22 to refer to a "locking block" and not a "lock block". Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7 through 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,119,495 to Loreti (hereinafter "Loreti"). Applicant

respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 7 now provides for a key-changeable lock containing, *inter alia*, a toothed piece with a block groove, wherein the toothed piece is movable to allow or block retraction of the locking block into the lock cylinder and the toothed piece is positioned entirely within the lock cylinder. This is a highly advantageous feature of the present application since it allows for a smaller, more compact assembly with fewer parts and lower costs.

In contrast, Fig. 17 of Loreti clearly shows locking pin 20 (which the Examiner equates with the Applicant's toothed piece 3) is partially biased outside the rotor 9. This is required for proper operation of the lock as described in Loreti. Thus, Loreti does not disclose or suggest a toothed piece that is positioned entirely within the lock cylinder, as recited in claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 is patentable over Loreti.

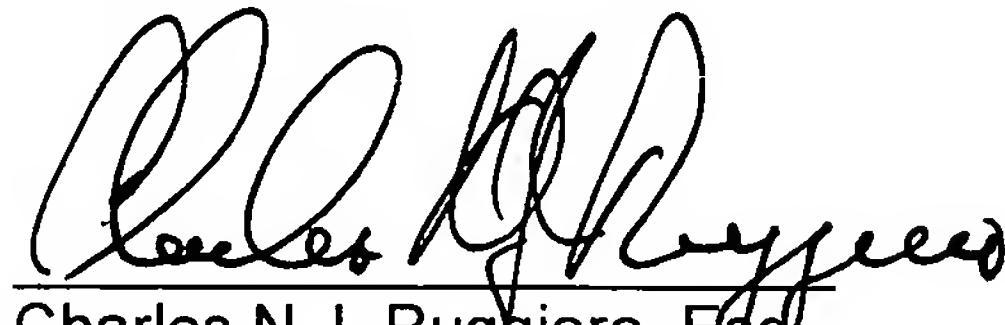
Independent claim 22 now provides for a key-changeable lock containing, *inter alia*, a sliding block slidable in the shell linearly in a direction perpendicular to the rotational axis free of the lock housing.

In contrast, Figs. 17-19 of Loreti show translation bar 27 (which the Examiner equates to Applicant's sliding block 6) is clearly biased against cylindrical seat 2. Thus, Loreti does not teach or suggest a sliding block that slides linearly in a direction perpendicular to the rotational axis free of the lock housing, as recited in claim 22.

For at least the same reasons as provided for independent claims 7 and 22, dependent claims 8 through 21 and 23 through 27, respectively, by virtue of this dependence are patentable over Loreti. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 through 27.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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